

1472

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

for Agencies Serving the Blind
and Visually Handicapped



Annual Report
1967

the beginning

The National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped began operations on January 1, 1967, the climax of years of work by hundreds of persons to bring the benefits of accreditation to the field of services for the blind.

The Council is an outgrowth of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation of Services for the Blind, an autonomous body launched in 1964 by the American Foundation for the Blind to develop uniform standards and a system of evaluation which could eventually both raise the level of quality of services for the blind and be recognized by the general public as the source of assurance of sound services for the blind.

The standards were formulated by twelve technical committees, composed of experts in the various areas of administration and service programs, appointed by the Commission. These standards were reviewed by leaders in work for the blind at the historic National Conference on Standards in 1965. They were published by the Commission in 1966 in *THE COMSTAC REPORT: Standards for Strengthened Services*.

The National Accreditation Council is an independent organization founded to translate those standards into guidelines for self-study and to implement and administer an ongoing, voluntary system of accreditation. During 1967 the organizational basis of such a system was created and the initial work was completed on the production of self-study guides.

organizational structure

A 32-member board of directors, from the business and professional community as well as from governmental and voluntary agencies, was appointed to guide the Council during its first year. Arthur L. Brandon, who had served as chairman of COMSTAC, is president of the board.

During the year the board created two major program arms. The first of these is the Commission on Accreditation. Under the chairmanship of Ewald B. Nyquist, New York State deputy commissioner of education, this commission is responsible for the formulation of policies, methods and procedures for the evaluation, periodic re-evaluation and approval of agencies applying for accreditation; action on each individual application; and the development of policy for working agreements between the Council and other appropriate accrediting bodies. A statement of operating policies and procedures to be followed by the commission was completed and approved by the board during the year.

The second major program arm established by the board is the Commission on Standards, chaired by Professor Benjamin F. Boyer of the Temple University School of Law. This commission is charged with the dual responsibility of updating standards incorporated in *THE COMSTAC REPORT* and of developing comparable sets of standards in areas not previously encompassed. At its first meeting two priority areas were selected for the development of standards as soon as feasible: *communications materials* and *business enterprise services*.

self-study guides

During the latter half of the year the efforts of the Council's staff were primarily directed toward the development of manuals to be used in a self-study as the basis for accreditation. Three such guides were written, with the assistance of technical consultants, for publication in the spring of 1968. The first of these, *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide*, is geared to the programs of the majority of agencies in the field of services to the blind and visually handicapped and incorporates all of the standards from *THE COMSTAC REPORT* with the exception of those pertaining to education.

The *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Residential Schools* was created to provide educational institutions for blind and visually handicapped students with a customized instrument for self-improvement. A committee of specially qualified educators, appointed by the board, assisted in the adaptation and correlation of the Council's standards with nationally accepted standards applied to educational and residential facilities for all children.

The special requirements encountered in the self-study of a sheltered workshop that operates as an independent entity rather than as a unit of a multiservice agency are encompassed in the *Self-Study and Evaluation Guide for Sheltered Workshops*. This guide was developed at the request, and with the assistance, of the General Council of Workshops for the Blind and the National Industries for the Blind.

The publication of these guides will enable agencies and schools to initiate the self-evaluation that is the first step in the process leading to accreditation.

financial statement

BALANCE SHEET — DECEMBER 31, 1967

Assets:		
Cash		<u>\$ 46,506.79</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 19,030.53	
Unexpended Balance of Grants Received	<u>20,225.89</u>	
	\$ 39,256.42	
Fund Balance—December 31, 1967	<u>7,250.37</u>	<u>46,506.79</u>

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 1967

Receipts:		
Grant from Governmental Agency	\$ 79,000.00	
Grant from Foundation	80,000.00	
Other Income (sale of books, etc.)	<u>7,868.40</u>	
	\$166,868.40	
Less: Unexpended Balance of Grants Received	<u>20,225.89</u>	
<u>Net Receipts</u>		<u>\$146,642.51</u>
Expenditures:		
Salaries and Special Project Consultants	\$ 78,762.60	
General Administration	25,965.13	
Training Institutes	9,757.48	
Publications	9,874.43	
Program Meetings on Standards Development and Accreditation	<u>15,032.50</u>	
<u>Total Expenditures</u>		<u>139,392.14</u>
Addition to Fund Balance		<u>\$ 7,250.37</u>

S. P. COOPER & COMPANY CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying balance sheet and related summary of financial activities present fairly the financial position of the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Inc. at December 31, 1967 and its income expenditures and addition to fund balance for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

S. P. Cooper & Company

officers and board of directors

Arthur L. Brandon, *President*
Lewisburg, Pa.

Peter J. Salmon, *Vice President*
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Frederick G. Storey, *Secretary*
Atlanta, Ga.

Benjamin F. Boyer, *Vice President*
Philadelphia, Pa.

Ira A. Schur, *Treasurer*
New York, N.Y.

M. Robert Barnett
New York, N.Y.

Robert S. Bray
Washington, D.C.

Kenneth W. Bryan
San Francisco, Calif.

Thomas E. Caulfield, M.D.
Newton, Mass.

J. Kenneth Cozier
Cleveland, Ohio

John W. Ferree, M.D.
New York, N.Y.

Melvin A. Glasser
Detroit, Mich.

James G. Haughton, M.D.
New York, N.Y.

Hon. Horace A. Hildreth
Portland, Maine

Richard E. Hoover, M.D.
Baltimore, Md.

Kenneth Jernigan
Des Moines, Iowa

Norman V. Lourie
Harrisburg, Pa.

John R. May
San Francisco, Calif.

Miss M. Anne McGuire
Waynesville, N.C.

Murray B. Meld
Seattle, Wash.

Robert Morris
Waltham, Mass.

William H. Nichols
Columbus, Ohio

Ewald B. Nyquist
Albany, N.Y.

Homer P. Rainey
Boulder, Colo.

Louis H. Rives, Jr.
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Frederick Romberg
Dallas, Texas

Miss Geraldine T. Scholl
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Henry A. Talbert
Los Angeles, Calif.

Warren Thompson
Denver, Colo.

McAllister Upshaw
Detroit, Mich.

J. M. Woolly
Little Rock, Ark.

Norman M. Yoder
Harrisburg, Pa.

commission on accreditation

Ewald B. Nyquist, *Chairman*
Albany, N.Y.

Wesley D. Sprague, *Vice Chairman*
New York, N.Y.

Jack W. Birch
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Robert C. Goodpasture
New York, N.Y.

Homer P. Rainey
Boulder, Colo.

Robert S. Bray
Washington, D.C.

Joseph Kohn
Newark, N.J.

Harold G. Roberts
New York, N.Y.

Douglas C. MacFarland
Washington, D.C.

commission on standards

Benjamin F. Boyer, *Chairman*
Philadelphia, Pa.

J. M. Woolly, *Vice Chairman*
Little Rock, Ark.

Rev. Thomas J. Carroll
Newton, Mass.

Harry E. Hayes
Topeka, Kansas

William O. McGill
Chicago, Ill.

Owen R. Davison
Philadelphia, Pa.

Norman V. Lourie
Harrisburg, Pa.

Miss M. Anne McGuire
Waynesville, N.C.

council staff

Alexander F. Handel, *Executive Director*

Charles I. Sheldon, *Assistant Executive Director*

Huesten Collingwood, *Staff Associate*

RECEIVED
AUG 20
RECORD CENTER

National Accreditation Council
for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped
84 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011